

ADOPTION OF 2014 REVISED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RULES

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve and adopt the Chicago Housing Authority's attached 2014 Revised Public Participation Rules for Board and Committee Meetings. The rules for Board meetings were last revised on August 15, 2013, and the rules for Committee meetings were last revised on August 4, 2011.

FUNDING:

N/A

GENERAL BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION

The purpose of the public participation rules is to provide residents and interested persons with the opportunity to comment on issues or topics that are within the purview of the Board or Committee, as the case may be. The proposed revisions to the public participation rules include the following:

1. **Consolidation**

Although they are similar, there are currently two sets of rules governing the Board and its Committees. The proposed rules combine the procedures governing the Board and the Committees into one document. The proposed consolidation simplifies and streamlines the Authority's procedures, and also makes it easier to administer the new on-line registration feature discussed immediately below.

2. **On-line registration**

The proposed rules newly provide that speakers are allowed to register on-line in advance of a meeting. Committee meeting On-line registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on the Friday before the preceding Committee meeting and closes at 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding committee meeting. Board meeting On-line registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on the Thursday preceding Board meeting and closes at 12:00 noon on the Monday preceding Board Meeting date.

3. **Group presentations**

The proposed rules newly provide that groups must select a maximum of two representatives to speak on their behalf. This provision ensures that the message of the group will be communicated to the Board (or Committee), but also ensures that individual group members will not use all of the time available for public comment.

4. **60 minute cumulative time limit**

The existing 2 minute limitation for individuals to speak is retained for Board and Committee meetings.

With respect to Board meetings, the proposed rules newly establish a cumulative limit of 60 minutes for public comment. However, if requested by the Chair and approved by majority vote of the Board, the time allocation for individuals and/or the cumulative limit may be altered based upon the number of persons registered to speak.

With respect to Committee meetings, the existing practice is to allow public comment immediately after an agenda item is discussed – there is no general period designated for public comment. That practice is being retained in these rules. The proposed rules do, however, state that the period for public comment may be limited if requested by the Chair and approved by majority vote of the Committee.

5. **Ability to remove individual for disruptive conduct.**

The proposed rules newly provide that individuals who are disruptive may, after receiving a warning, be removed from the meeting. They further provide that if any individual is removed from a meeting as a result of disruptive behavior, that individual may forfeit his or her right of re-entry to future Board and Committee meetings.

6. **Written comments**

The proposed rules newly provide that written comments and/or literature will be accepted at Board and Committee meetings from: a) registered speakers, including speakers who are unable to complete their comments during the allotted time, and b) individuals who wish to speak but are unable to address the Board or Committee. (The second scenario would, for example, apply to people who did not register on-line and who arrived at the meeting too late to register in person.) This provision keeps the length of the meeting within a reasonable time period, but addresses any possible concern that the speakers are being unfairly or arbitrarily prevented from speaking.

7. **Cell phones**

The proposed rules newly provide that all persons attending a Board or Committee meeting shall turn off or silence their cell phone while the meeting is in session.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with all applicable Chicago Housing Authority board policies.

Board Counsel recommends the approval and adoption of the attached 2014 Revised Public Participation Rules for Board and Committee Meetings.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-CHA-128

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority has reviewed the Board letter dated December 10, 2014 entitled: **"ADOPTION OF 2014 REVISED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RULES FOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE METINGS"**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, the 2014 Revised Public Participation Rules for Board and Committee Meetings in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A are adopted.

